

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6055

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JCS WASHDC

CSA WASHDC

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CMC WASHDC

USCINCEUR VEIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 9722

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KE

SUBJECT: FY 76 AND FY 75 MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: A. NAIROBI 8846 DTG 091255Z OCT 75 (NOTAL)

B. STATE 253942 DTG 242206Z OCT 75 (NOTAL)

C. STATE 258168 DTG 310005Z OCT 75

1. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO REF C INSOFAR AS EMBASSY IS
ABLE TO DISCUSS FUTURE FMS CREDITS AND GRANT MILITARY
TRAINING FOR DENYA PENDING WASHINGTON DECISION ON WHAT
EQUIPMENT WILL BE OFFERED (REFS A AND B).

2. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO SUBPARAGRAPHS OF
PAR . 5 REF C:

A. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOK WILL ACCEPT FY 76 AMOUNT
OF \$2 MILLION AND WILL CONSUMMATE CREDIT AGREEMENT, ALBEIT
WITH DISAPPOINTMENT THAT LARGER AMOUNT NOT AVAILABLE.
HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THIS AMOUNT WITH GOK
AND FEEL IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO DO SO UNTIL WE ARE
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ABLE TO INDICATE WHAT EQUIPMENT U.S. PROPOSES TO OFFER

UNDER FY 75 CREDIT OF \$5 MILLION (NONE OF WHICH YET DRAWN) AND FY 76 NEW CREDIT.

B. AS DEPARTMENT AND DOD ARE AWARE, KENYA'S MAJOR INTEREST IS ACQUISITION OF SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT; IT CLEARLY FAVORS F-5E AND F. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DOUBT THAT KENYA WILL BE ABLE TO AFFORD SQUADRON OF SUCH AIRCRAFT UNLESS AVAILABLE CREDIT IS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED. GOK IS ALSO INTERESTED IN HARDWARE FOR ITS GROUND FORCES, POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE APC'S, TOW MISSILES, RECOILLESS RIFLES, MORTARS, HOWITZERS, ETC. IT MAY WISH TO ACQUIRE U.S. HELICOPTERS FOR ITS AIR FORCE. KENYANS HAVE NOW SEEN MOST OF THIS EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATED, BUT HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED THEIR SHOPPING LIST. WE EXPECT THEY WILL INFORM US OF THEIR GROUND EQUIPMENT NEEDS WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS.

C. PROPOSED FMS CREDIT DOES NOT SUPPORT A MILITARY REQUIREMENT DERIVED FROM U.S.-APPROVED FORCE GOAL.

D. THERE IS NO OTHER DIRECT MILITARY JUSTIFICATION FOR CREDIT. HOWEVER, SEE ITEM F BELOW FOR DISCUSSION OF U.S. NAVY USE OF MOMBASSA PORT.

E. THERE IS NO GRANT MATERIEL PROGRAM FOR KENYA. GRANT TRAINING AMOUNT OF \$965,000 FOR FY 76 AND \$135,000 FOR FY 75 IS PROJECTED FOR PILOT AND MAINTENANCE TRAINING ASSOCIATED WITH ACQUISITION OF SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT. IF AIRCRAFT ARE NOT SUPPLIED, SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF GRANT TRAINING FUNDS MIGHT BE USED FOR HELICOPTER PILOT AND MAINTENANCE TRAINING (IF HELICOPTERS ACQUIRED UNDER FMS), WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDS USED FOR TRAINING RELATED TO OTHER EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED. WE ARE ALSO CURRENTLY STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF USING PART OF TRAINING FUNDS FOR FIXED-WING BASIC JET PILOT AND MAINTENANCE COURSED WHICH ARE MUCH NEEDED BY KENYA AIR FORCE IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT NEW AIRCRAFT IT ACQUIRES. (SEPARATE MESSAGE TO FOLLOW ON THIS SUBJECT). WE ALSO ANTICIPATE USING NO MORE THAN TEN PER CENT OF GRANT TRAINING FUNDS FOR SUPPORT OF KENYA ARMY, AIR FORCE AND NAVY OFFICERS ATTENDING VARIOUS U.S. MILITARY STAFF SCHOOLS AND MANAGEMENT COURSES.

F. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS SET FORTH IN JUSTIFICATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION OF KENYA'S ELIGIBILITY FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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FMS CREDITS AND FOR ACQUISITION OF U.S. SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT EMAIN UNCHANGED. BRIEFLY, KENYA HAS STABLE GOVERNMENT FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD U.S. AND THE WEST. ITS CITIZENS ENJOY GREAT DEGREE OF PERSONAL FREEDOM AND ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM IS BROADLY PARTICIPATORY, RESPONDING TO REAL NEEDS OF ITS PEOPLE UNDER DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONAL NORMS. U.S. HAS AN INTEREST IN KENYA'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND SUSTAIN ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM;

THIS INTEREST IS DIRECT IN SENSE THAT KENYA IS AMONG FRIENDLIEST OF AFRICAN LDC'S, AND INDIRECT IN SENSE THAT ITS SUCCESS OR FAILURE COULD HAVE IMPORTANT RAMIFICATIONS FOR NON-SOCIALIST MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT SUB-SAHARA AFRICA. TWO OF KENYA'S NEIGHBORS REPRESENT POTENTIAL THREATS OF A MAGNITUDE THAT COULD CHALLENGE ITS SURVIVAL. SOMALIA HAS IRREDENTIST PRETENSIONS TO KENYAN TERRITORY, AND UGANDA IS RULED BY AN ERRATIC AND FANATIC EX-PARATROOPER WHO MIGHT EMBROIL KENYA IN A REGIONAL CONFLICT UNDER VARIOUS PLAUSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES. BOTH UGANDA AND SOMALIA ARE WELL ARMED BY USSR; BOTH HAVE MIG-21'S AGAINST WHICH KENYA IS VIRTUALLY WITHOUT DEFENSE OR RETALIATORY CAPABILITY.

A FURTHER U.S. INTEREST IN KENYA IS CONTINUED NAVAL ACCESS TO MOMBASA PORT, ONE OF THE FEW INDIAN OCEAN PORTS ABLE AND WILLING TO RECEIVE USN CARRIERS AND A GOOD LIBERTY PORT FOR OTHER CLASSES OF SHIPS. GOK HAS NEVER VIEWED FMS CREDIT AS QUID PRO QUO FOR USN USE OF MOMBASA, BUT ASSISTANCE TO KENYA IN MEETING ITS OWN DEFENSE NEEDS OBVIOUSLY HELPS TO ASSURE CONTINUED WELCOME FOR USN DESPITE CRITICISM LEVELED AT GOK BY ITS MORE MILITANT NEIGHBORS.

G. CREDIT, IF USED FOR AIRCRAFT, WILL DEFINITELY AFFECT REGIONAL ARMS BALANCE BY REDRESSING LOPSIDED ADVANTAGE ENJOYED BY UGANDA AND SOMALIA. IT WILL GIVE KENYA THE BARE MINIMUM OF CREDIBILITY IN ITS DEFENSE AGAINST POTENTIAL FOE, WHICH IT DOES NOT NOW POSSESS. CREDIT FOR EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN AIRCRAFT WILL MAKE A LESSER CONTRIBUTION TO RESTORATION OF BALANCE, BUT MAY BE USEFUL IN PREVENTING SMALL INCIDENTS FROM DEVELOPING INTO MORE SERIOUS CONFLICT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE CREDIT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ARMS RACE SINCE KENYA CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT ITS CATCH-UP PROGRAM IS CLEARLY OF CONFIDENTIAL

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DEFENSIVE NATURE.

H. KENYA CANNOT UNDERTAKE ITS SIX-YEAR DEFENSE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WITHOUT MAJOR CREDIT FACILITIES TO FINANCE FOREIGN CURRENCY COMPONENT ESTIMATED AT \$200 MILLION.

I. CREDIT IN AMOUNT CONTEMPLATED FOR FY 76 AND FY 75 WILL NOT SERIOUSLY ENCUMBER KENYA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESOURCES, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE AMOUNTS ARE RELATIVELY SMALL, OFFICIAL DONORS AND PRIVATE INVESTORS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNDERWRITING KENYA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND THE INCREASE IN COFFEE PRICES MAY GIVE KENYA SLIGHTLY MORE LEEWAY IN MANAGING ITS EXTERNAL RESERVES. IN TERMS OF NATIONAL BUDGET, DEFENSE SPENDING IS CURRENTLY AT MODEST 5 PER CENT, AND PROPOSED U.S. CREDITS FOR FY 76 WOULD NOT SUBSTANTIALLY RAISE THIS.

J. KENYA IS MAKING NO SIGNIFICANT CASH PURCHASES
OF ARMS FROM U.S. IT MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN GRANT
ASSISTANCE FOR NON-LETHAL ITEMS FROM EC COUNTRIES,
ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT CERTAIN. UK HAS OFFERED LIMITED
CONCESSIONAL FINANCING FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HOW-
EVER, UK HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO KENYA THAT IT CANNOT IN-
CREASE IT MILITARY ASSISTANCE BEYOND CURRENT LEVEL,
WHICH IN EFFECT MEANS KENYA MUST DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF
SUPPORT FOR DEFENSE NEEDS.
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